GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4230
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2000
FIBRE LINK AROUND GLOBE
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Fibre Link Around the Globe (FLAG) is building up all sorts of pressure to sell its excess capacity directly to private Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in India in violation of its 1995 Construction and Maintenance Agreement with Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL); and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that FLAG does not violate agreement and lease its capacity to ISPs or any licences entities only through VSNL and prevent FLAG from setting up another landing station in South India to sell its capacity directly in India?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a)&(b): Reports have appeared in the Press from time to time that FLAG was keen to sell its bandwidth directly to internet service providers in India. According to VSNL, as per Terms & Conditions of Contract and Maintenance Agreement signed between FLAG and VSNL, bandwidth capacity of FLAG can be sold in India only through VSNL. In view of the increasing demand for bandwidth Government has advised VSNL to negotiate with FLAG within the framework of this Agreement, so that the bandwidth available through FLAG in India can be fully utilised.